

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

MacNEIL AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS,
LIMITED, d/b/a WEATHERTECH, and
MacNEIL IP LLC,

Plaintiffs,

v.

YITA LLC, d/b/a Oedro or YitaMotor; and
JINRONG (SH) AUTOMOTIVE
ACCESSORY DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.,

Defendants.

C20-0278 TSZ


**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER**

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

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LOWE GRAHAM JONES PLLC


1325 Fourth Avenue, Ste. 1130
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.381.3300 • F: 206.381.3301

2. “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL

2.1 “Confidential” material shall include the following documents and tangible things produced or otherwise exchanged: (1) information concerning marketing plans, business plans, forecasts, and business strategies and (2) other proprietary documents that would cause harm to a party if publicly disclosed.

2.2 “Outside Counsel Attorneys’ Eyes Only” material shall include documents and tangible things produced or otherwise exchanged that (1) would otherwise be designated as confidential and (2) are reasonably believed by the designating party to represent a trade secret or other confidential commercial information of such sensitive nature that its dissemination cannot adequately be covered by the protections set forth for confidential materials. For example, financial and tax documents, molding, design, or other creation information would be considered Outside Counsel Attorneys’ Eyes Only.

3. SCOPE

The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys’ Eyes Only material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys’ Eyes Only material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys’ Eyes Only material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys’ Eyes Only material.

However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

1 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

2 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use Confidential or Outside
3 Counsel Attorneys' Eyes Only material that is disclosed or produced by another party or
4 by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting
5 to settle this litigation. Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys' Eyes Only material
6 may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in
7 this agreement. Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys' Eyes Only material must be
8 stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that
9 ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

10 4.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise
11 ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party
12 may disclose any confidential material only to:

13 a. the receiving party's counsel in this action, as well as employees
14 of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this
15 litigation;

16 b. the officers, directors, and employees (including in house
17 counsel) of the receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
18 litigation, unless the parties agree that a particular document or material produced is
19 for Attorney's Eyes Only and is so designated;

20 c. experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably
21 necessary for this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement
22 to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

23 d. the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

24 e. copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the
25 duplication of confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the
26

1 copy or imaging service instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material
2 to third parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any confidential
3 material;

4 f. during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom
5 disclosure is reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and
6 Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party
7 or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to
8 depositions that reveal confidential material must be separately bound by the court
9 reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this agreement;
10

11 g. the author or recipient of a document containing the information
12 or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

13 4.3 Disclosure of “OUTSIDE COUNSEL ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY”
14 Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by
15 the designating party, Outside Counsel Attorneys’ Eyes Only material will be disclosed
16 to a party’s outside counsel, rather than to the party itself, and counsel may disclose any
17 such material only to:

18 a. the receiving party’s outside counsel in this action, as well as
19 employees of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for
20 this litigation;

21 b. experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably
22 necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement
23 to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

24 c. the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;
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26

d. copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys' Eyes Only material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service instructs the service not to disclose any Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys' Eyes Only material to third parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys' Eyes Only material;

e. during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A). Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys' Eyes Only material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this agreement;

f. the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

4.4 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys' Eyes Only material or discussing or referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party, in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will remove the Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys' Eyes Only designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys' Eyes Only information at issue, and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth

the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its information must satisfy the requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the party filing the motion to seal. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance with the strong presumption of public access to the Court's files.

5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.

Each party or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this agreement (see, *e.g.*, section 5.2(b) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

1 (a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic
 2 documents and deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other
 3 pretrial or trial proceedings), the designating party must affix the word
 4 “CONFIDENTIAL” OR “OUTSIDE COUNSEL ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY,” as
 5 appropriate, to each page that contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions
 6 of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must clearly
 7 identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

8 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the
 9 parties and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition
 10 or other pretrial proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so
 11 designate other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may,
 12 within thirty (30) days after receiving the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial
 13 proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as Confidential or
 14 Outside Counsel Attorneys’ Eyes Only. If a party or non-party desires to protect
 15 Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys’ Eyes Only information at trial, the issue
 16 should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

17 (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent
 18 place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is
 19 stored the word “CONFIDENTIAL” OR “OUTSIDE COUNSEL ATTORNEYS’ EYES
 20 ONLY,” as appropriate. If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant
 21 protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected
 22 portion(s).

23 (d) Certain electronic files: where it is impractical to affix the
 24 word “CONFIDENTIAL” or “OUTSIDE COUNSEL ATTORNEY’S EYES ONLY,” as
 25 appropriate, to each page that contains confidential material or Outside Counsel Attorney’s
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1 Eyes Only material, as described in § 5.2(a)–(c) above, such as for files produced in a
 2 native format, the designating party may either:

3 i. Modify the file names of certain electronic files by adding the
 4 words “CONFIDENTIAL” or “OUTSIDE COUNSEL ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY”; or

5 ii. Submit, reasonably soon before or after production of certain electronic
 6 files, a list of file names to be designated “CONFIDENTIAL” or “OUTSIDE COUNSEL
 7 ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY,” which shall cause the documents on the list to be
 8 constructively so marked.

9 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
 10 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the
 11 designating party’s right to secure protection under this agreement for such material.
 12 Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts
 13 to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.
 14

15 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

16 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a
 17 designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating
 18 party’s confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial
 19 unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the
 20 litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by
 21 electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.

22 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any
 23 dispute regarding Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys’ Eyes Only designations
 24 without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential designations or for a
 25 protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration or affidavit,
 26 that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other

1 affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification
 2 must list the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer
 3 requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

4 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without
 5 court intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality
 6 under Local Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if
 7 applicable). The burden of persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating
 8 party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to harass or
 9 impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the challenging
 10 party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain the material in question as
 11 Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys' Eyes Only until the court rules on the
 12 challenge.

13 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN
 14 OTHER LITIGATION

15
 16 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that
 17 compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as
 18 "CONFIDENTIAL" or "OUTSIDE COUNSEL ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY," that
 19 party must:

20 i. promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy
 21 of the subpoena or court order;

22 ii. promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or
 23 order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the
 24 subpoena or order is subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of
 25 this agreement; and
 26

iii. cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys' Eyes Only material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving party must return all Confidential or Outside Counsel Attorneys' Eyes Only

1 material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and summaries thereof.
2 Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.

3 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of
4 all documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence,
5 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and
6 expert work product, even if such materials contain Confidential or Outside Counsel
7 Attorneys' Eyes Only material.

8 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect
9 until a designating party agrees otherwise in writing or court orders otherwise.

10 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

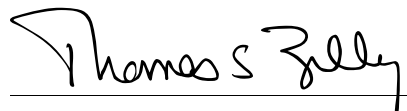
11 DATED: September 20, 2024 /s/ Mark P. Walters
12 *Attorneys for Defendants Yita, LLC and Jinrong*
13 *(SH) Automotive Accessory Development Co., LTD.*

14 DATED: September 20, 2024 /s/ Emily McNally
15 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

16 PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

17 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production
18 of any documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any
19 other federal or state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any
20 privilege applicable to those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney
21 work-product protection, or any other privilege or protection recognized by law.
22

23 DATED this 21st day of October, 2024.

24 

25 Thomas S. Zilly
26 United States District Judge

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